

Monthly Report Template for COMPETE Grantees

Grantee: Sustainable Harvest at Origin/Africa Ltd

Report for the month of: April 2011

Based on your grant agreement implementation timeline, please highlight the activities you have accomplished over the past month.

Activities Activities should be directly in-line with your grant agreement	Activity Status If the activity has been accomplished, please give results. If the activity has not been accomplished, please provide an explanation.
To link input suppliers with producers and producers with buyers	Last month Slow Food – a global association of farmers promoting the food industry headquartered in Turin, Italy – visited Mesengarony washing station and requested a sample of Kilicafe coffee. This month Slow Food contacted Sustainable Harvest to inform us they have found a roaster who liked the sample and would be very interested in purchasing Kilicafe coffee from the 2011 crop. It is therefore possible we will be able to secure contracts with an Italian roaster for the Kilicafe RITS coffee in the coming months.
To conduct trainings on: -Quality management training workshops -Wet mill management workshops -RFID/cell phone use workshops -RITS system workshops for dry mill managers and cuppers	<p>From April 13th–15th Sustainable Harvest held the second training for the new northern chapter Kilicafe 2011 users from Pendo, Kishisha and Mlimani Ngarashi washing stations. All 6 new users and three former 2010 users attended the training, which focused on practicing previously learnt basic computer skills and a two day training on RITS. By the 15th the groups were successfully orientating the system alone.</p> <p>In early April, the final 3 groups from Mbinga were chosen for participating in the RITS pilot; Mahenge, Umoja Ilela and Kihuka. Two members from each group, a total of 6 individuals plus the Mbinga production officer traveled to Moshi to attend their first training in basic computer skills from April 18th–21st. The groups were rapid learners and by 21st we were able to begin with some simple RITS terminology and orientation.</p> <p>On the 20th, the 7 individuals from Mbinga and 35 other producers from the 7 washing stations we are working with under the RITS Program in Kilimanjaro region attended a one day training conducted by Boss Farijallah and Andre Almeida on quality management. Topics covered included best practices in picking and processing coffee, how to recognise different coffee defects and a hands-on cupping session in how to recognise coffee defects in the cup.</p>

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Collection, bulking, cleaning, sorting, drying, storage of RITS tracked coffee at the dry mill	Due to the fact that the harvest officially closed in January 2011, there has been no data associated with processing Kilicafe coffee recorded in the RITS system during the month of March. The harvest is due to commence again in May 2011.

Additional comments or results:

This month, Sustainable Harvest updated the 2010 RITS user manual to include the new payment and receipt printing functions added to the system by popular demand earlier this year. The manuals were printed and distributed to all the 9 RITS users who attended the training from 13th–15th. More manuals will be distributed during trainings throughout the month of May.

Boss Farijallah completed the farmer handbooks in best practices in coffee production, both pre and post harvest. The manual also includes a section on organic composting, designed by Andre Almeida. 500 copies of the manual have been printed in the US and will be sent to Moshi for distribution in May 2011.

Earlier this month Sustainable Harvest IT staff in the Portland office purchased and tested a Star Micronics TSP143ECO printer for use at the washing stations. The printer is light weight and easy to use, and is successfully printing out receipts of coffee deliveries and payments through the RITS system. Therefore 11 of these printers (one for each of the 10 RITS groups and one for use during training sessions) have been purchased and are due to arrive in Moshi in early May, in time to incorporate into the May RITS training sessions.

Also this month the Sustainable Harvest IT staff in Portland have been communicating frequently with Relevance to design the new RITS iPad app. The app will have offline capacities such that washing station managers can continue to record cherry deliveries in the system even during sporadic internet connections. As soon as the internet is stable again, the manager can simply sync the iPad with the MacBook and all the data will be updated and stored in RITS online. The app should be ready to showcase in May and we hope to gather some constructive feedback from the RITS users here in Tanzania, before finalizing it in June.

Finally this month, the RITS team have been communicating with Nathan from Frontline SMS and at the end of April we received the beginnings of a mock-up system for managing farmer payments through the mPesa mobile phone scheme at the washing station. We look forward to working more with Frontline SMS in the coming months to pilot this technology at a chosen Kilicafe RITS washing station; our hope being the technology overtime would improve individual financial management and transparency at the household level, ultimately improving farmer livelihoods.